

Library

DESBOROUGH
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

Medical Officer of Health

For the Year 1952

Urban District of Desborough

Members of the Public Health Committee :

1952- 53

Councillor Mrs. A. B. Lock (Chairman)

Councillors Mrs. G. A. Panter, J. Gould, S. L. Kilborn, W. Manton,
A. H. Noon, J.P., H. W. Tailby.

Public Health Officers of the Local Authority :

Medical Officer of Health :

JOHN TERENCE MURPHY, M.B., B.Ch., B.A.O., D.P.H.

Also holds the appointments of Medical Officer of Health to the Urban Districts of Burton Latimer, Corby, Rothwell and the Rural District of Kettering, Assistant Medical Officer of Health and Assistant School Medical Officer to the Northamptonshire County Council.

Sanitary Inspector and Surveyor :

ARTHUR HARRIS, M.I.Mun.E., A.R.S.I.

Public Health Department,
75 London Road,
KETTERING.

July, 1953.

*To the Chairman and Members of the
Desborough Urban District Council.*

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I beg to present my annual report on the health and sanitary conditions of the Urban District for 1952.

The health of the people, as far as can be ascertained from the death rate, infantile mortality rate and the incidence of infectious disease, appears to be satisfactory.

Since 1940, 936 births have occurred without a single maternal fatality and it is pleasing to record that no infants died during the year.

I wish to express thanks to the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee for their support and also to my colleagues for their help and co-operation during the year.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

J. T. MURPHY,
Medical Officer of Health.

SUMMARY OF VITAL STATISTICS

The following is a summary of the principal statistics for the years
1948, 1949, 1950, 1951 and 1952.

	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952
Area (acres)	2,400	2,400	2,400	2,400	2,400
Population (Registrar General's estimate)	4,621	4,645	4,644	4,690	4,883
Number of Live Births	66	62	68	58	49
Legitimate	65	61	66	56	48
Illegitimate	1	1	2	2	1
Birth-rate per 1,000 population	14.28	13.34	14.64	12.36	10.03
Number of Still Births	2	2	2	3	2
Legitimate	2	2	2	3	2
Illegitimate	—	—	—	—	—
Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births	29.41	31.25	28.57	49.18	39.22
Rate per 1,000 population	0.43	0.43	0.43	0.64	0.41
Number of Deaths	47	57	43	65	50
Death-rate per 1,000 population for 1950 (corrected)	10.17	12.27	9.25	13.86	10.24
Death from Pregnancy, Childbirth and Abortion	—	—	—	—	—
Infantile Mortality rate per 1,000 live births	45.45	Nil	29.41	34.48	Nil
Neonatal Mortality rate per 1,000 live births	—	—	29.41	17.24	Nil
Deaths from all forms of Tuberculosis	2	3	—	1	1
Deaths from Pulmonary Tuberculosis	—	—	—	1	1
Deaths from Malignant Neoplasms ...	11	8	5	13	14
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	—	—	—	—	—
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	1	—	—	—	—
Deaths from Enteritis and Diarrhoea under two years of age	—	—	—	—	—
Deaths from Acute Poliomyelitis and Polioencephalitis	—	1	—	—	—

BIRTH-RATE, DEATH-RATE AND ANALYSIS OF MORTALITY DURING THE YEAR, 1952

	Rate per 1,000 Total Population		Annual Death-rate per 1,000 Population									Rate per 1,000 live Births	
	Live Births	Still Births	All Causes	Typhoid & Paratyphoid Fevers	Whooping Cough	Diphtheria	Tuberculosis	Influenza	Small-Pox	Acute Poliomyelitis and Polioencephalitis	Pneumonia	Diarrhoea & Enteritis under 2 years	Total Deaths under 1 year
England and Wales ...	15.3	0.35	11.3	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.24	0.04	0.00	0.01	0.47	1.1	27.6
160 County Boroughs and Great Towns including London	16.9	0.43	12.1	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.28	0.04	0.00	0.01	0.52	1.3	31.2
160 Smaller Towns estd. resident populations, 25,000 — 50,000	15.5	0.36	11.2	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.22	0.04	0.00	0.00	0.43	0.5	25.8
London	17.6	0.34	12.6	—	0.00	0.00	0.31	0.05	—	0.01	0.58	0.7	23.8
Desborough													
Urban District ...	10.03	0.41	9.11	—	—	—	0.20	0.20	—	—	—	—	—
The Maternal Mortality rates for :													
			Sepsis of pregnancy, childbirth and the puerperium	Abortion with toxæmia	Other toxæmias of pregnancy and the puerperium	Haemorrhage of pregnancy and childbirth	Abortion without mention of sepsis or toxæmia	Abortion with sepsis	Other complications of pregnancy, childbirth and the puerperium				
England and Wales per 1,000 (Live and Still) Births			0.09	0.02	0.21	0.09	0.04	0.07	0.20				
Desborough Urban District ...			—	—	—	—	—	—	—				

SECTION A. Statistics and Social Conditions.

Area (acres)	2,400
Registrar-General's estimated or resident population ...	4,883
Number of inhabited houses, end of 1952	1,590
Rateable Value	£23,674
Sum represented by Penny Rate	£95

The chief occupations of the inhabitants are as follows :

Boot and Shoe manufacture, corset manufacture, manufacture of cardboard boxes and rigid containers, ironstone quarrying, farming.

Extracts from Vital Statistics for the Year :

LIVE BIRTHS				<i>Total</i>	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>
Legitimate	...	...	...	48	21	27
Illegitimate	...	...	...	1	—	1
TOTALS				49	21	28

Birth-rate per 1,000 of the estimated population 10.03

STILL BIRTHS				<i>Total</i>	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>
Legitimate	...	...	...	2	2	—
Illegitimate	...	...	...	—	—	—
TOTAL				2	2	—

Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births 39.22

DEATHS				<i>Total</i>	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>
				50	28	22
Death-rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population						10.24
Death from Pregnancy, Childbirth and Abortion				...		—
Death-rate of infants under one year of age :—						
All infants per 1,000 live births				...	...	—
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births				...		—
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births						—
Deaths from Measles (all ages)				...	...	—
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)				...	...	—
Deaths from enteritis and diarrhoea (under two years of age)						—
Deaths from malignant neoplasms				...	...	14
Deaths from Acute Poliomyelitis and Polioencephalitis				...		—

Deaths.—Comparability factor for 1952 was 0.89. The crude death-rate per 1,000 population for 1952 was 10.24 which multiplied by the comparability factor of 0.89 supplied by the Registrar-General gives a corrected death-rate of 9.11. This death-rate of 9.11 is the rate which it is assumed, would be arrived at if age and sex distribution of the population of Desborough Urban District were distributed in the same proportions as that of England & Wales as a whole.

LIVE BIRTH RATES, 1952

A comparability factor has been issued for 1952 by the Registrar-General which allows for the different age and sex distribution of Desborough and provides a basis for comparison with that of England and Wales as a whole.

Desborough	...	...	...	...	10.03
Desborough corrected by comparability factor 1.0	...	...	...	...	10.03
England and Wales	...	...	...	...	15.3

INFANTILE MORTALITY RATES 1952

Infantile mortality is the number of deaths in children under one year of age per 1,000 live births. This is an indication of the environmental and social conditions of a community with special reference to housing, overcrowding and child welfare.

Desborough	...	...	...	...	NIL
England and Wales	...	...	...	...	27.6

The registered causes of death were as follows :—

						<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Total</i>
All causes	...	...	...	...	...	28	22	50
1. Tuberculosis, respiratory	...	...	...	...	...	1	—	1
2. Tuberculosis, other	...	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
3. Syphilitic disease	...	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
4. Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
5. Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
6. Meningococcal infections	...	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
7. Acute poliomyelitis	...	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
8. Measles	...	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
9. Other infective and parasitic diseases	...	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
10. Malignant neoplasm stomach	...	...	...	...	...	—	1	1
11. Malignant neoplasm lung bronchus	...	...	...	...	...	1	—	1
12. Malignant neoplasm breast	...	...	...	...	...	—	1	1
13. Malignant neoplasm uterus	...	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
14. Other malignant & lymphatic neoplasms	...	...	...	...	...	7	4	11
15. Leukaemia, aleukaemia	...	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
16. Diabetes	...	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
17. Vascular lesions of nervous system	...	...	...	...	...	5	4	9
18. Coronary disease, angina	...	...	...	...	...	5	5	10
19. Hypertension with heart disease	...	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
20. Other heart disease	...	...	...	...	...	—	4	4
21. Other circulatory disease	...	...	...	...	...	1	2	3
22. Influenza	...	...	...	...	...	—	1	1
23. Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
24. Bronchitis	...	...	...	...	...	3	—	3
25. Other disease of the respiratory system	...	...	...	...	...	—	—	—

Registered causes of death— <i>continued.</i>	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Total</i>
26. Ulcer and stomach duodenum ...	1	—	1
27. Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea ...	—	—	—
28. Nephritis and nephrosis ...	—	—	—
29. Hyperplasia of prostate ...	—	—	—
30. Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion ...	—	—	—
31. Congenital malformations ...	—	—	—
32. Other defined and ill-defined diseases	2	—	2
33. Motor vehicle accidents ...	1	—	1
34. All other accidents ...	—	—	—
35. Suicide ...	1	—	1
36. Homicide and operations of war ...	—	—	—

SECTION B. General Provision of Health Services.

(a) **Laboratory facilities.**—Bacteriological examinations were carried out by the Public Health Laboratory at Northampton and by the Laboratory of the Kettering General Hospital.

The following specimens were examined :—

Faeces	...	...	...	...	...	15
--------	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	----

(b) **Ambulance facilities.**—The County Council became responsible for ambulance services from 5th July, 1948. The St. John Ambulance Brigade carry out the service on behalf of the County Council for non-infectious cases.

(c) **Nursing in the Home.**—From 5th July, 1948 the County Council became responsible for the Home Nursing Service, details of work carried out during 1952 were not made available to the Local Authority.

(d) **Treatment Centres and Clinics.**—A County Council Welfare Clinic is held twice a month. A Medical Officer attends one session a month.

The treatment of Tuberculosis and Venereal Diseases is carried out by the Regional Hospital Board.

Diphtheria Immunisation.—The number of children who were immunised in 1952 is as follows :—

Under 5 years of age ...	...	...	...	40
5 to 14 years of age ...	...	...	...	1
TOTAL				41
Boosters	...	...	...	18

The number of children who have had a full course of immunisation—

Age at 31.12.52	Under 1	1	2	3	4
i.e. Born in Year	1952	1951	1950	1949	1948
No. immunised	1	37	49	52	45
Age at 31.12.52	5 - 9	10 - 14	Total		
i.e. Born in Year	1943 - 47	1938 - 42	under 15		
No. immunised	192	196	572		

WHOOPIING COUGH VACCINATION

	Under 1	1 - 4	5 - 14	Total
Whooping Cough only	—	—	—	—
*Combined Diphtheria/Pertussis	1	36	—	37

*The combined diphtheria/pertussis figures are included in the figures for diphtheria immunisation.

VACCINATION

The following table gives the number of vaccinations undertaken during the year :—

	Under 1	1 - 4	5 - 14	15 or over	Total
Primary	15	3	4	—	22
Re-vaccination ...	—	1	—	7	8

National Assistance Act, 1948, Section 47.—No formal action was taken during the year.

SECTION C.

Sanitary Circumstances of the Area and Inspection of Food.

Report by A. HARRIS, M.I.MUN.E., A.R.SAN.I.

Water Supply.—The Mid-Northamptonshire Water Board has maintained a good supply of water both in quantity and quality throughout the year.

Two bacteriological examinations of the supply were made and the results were very satisfactory. The water is very hard and has no plumbo-solvent action. No chemical examination of the water was made by the Council.

The whole of the population is served by the public piped supply with the exception of four farms which are a long distance from the service mains. About one-eighth of the houses and population, mostly in the old portion of the town, is served by standpipes in the yard or at the rear of houses. During the year six houses had a supply taken inside instead of being served by the outside arrangements. The water service to the other houses is direct.

Drainage and Sewerage.—No new works of sewerage or sewage disposal have been undertaken during the year.

The Sewage Disposal Works have been well maintained and are dealing efficiently with the daily flow.

Sanitary Inspection of the Area.—During the year 246 inspections were made. 75 nuisances were abated by serving informal notices. No statutory notices were found necessary. The nuisances referred mainly to minor housing structural defects and drainage.

Rats and Mice Destruction Act.—The House Refuse Tip and the Sewage Disposal Works have been treated at intervals during the year. Both sites are being kept free from vermin. No nuisance has been noted in the sewers. No infestations have been reported.

Housing.—26 houses were completed during the year by the Council. The total number of post war houses completed by the Local Authority, all by local labour, at the end of the year, was 146. Six houses were completed during 1952 by private enterprise.

The Council had 20 houses and private enterprise 6 in course of construction at the end of the year.

Factories Act, 1937.—28 inspections of factories were made and with the exception of a minor defect to a W.C., no nuisances were noted.

The three canteens provided at the factories have been kept in a clean and satisfactory condition.

The number of outworkers in August, 1952 was 31. This shows a decrease of 111 on last year's figure.

Inspection and Supervision of Food.

Meat and other Foods.—There are no Government Slaughterhouses being operated within the Urban District. Slaughtering of animals is confined to the Ministry of Food Self Suppliers of Pigs Scheme. 15 notices were received giving notice of slaughter. All slaughtering was carried out at registered slaughterhouses. Ten carcasses were inspected and no disease was noted.

Food Condemned.—8 lbs. of tinned Danish Luncheon Pork. 37½ lbs. of Cooked Meat (Savoury Ducks and Black Puddings).

Fish Frying.—The three fish frying establishments were kept in a clean condition throughout the year.

Bakehouses.—There is only one bakehouse in the town. It has been kept in a clean condition. Up-to-date sanitary accommodation is provided together with a constant supply of hot and cold water.

Ice Cream.—There are no licensed manufacturers of ice cream in the Urban area. The number of registrations for the sale of ice cream is eight.

Clean Food Campaign.—Notices have been renewed and are continuing to be displayed in all food shops requesting, in the interests of hygiene, not to bring dogs into the premises. These notices appear to be serving their purpose.

Infectious Diseases.—

There were 89 notifications during the year, of which 80 were due to Measles, occurring during the months of November and December. One case of Measles was removed to Hospital.

One child aged one year developed Typhoid Fever—the child was in direct contact with a known carrier of Typhoid germs. She was removed to Hospital.

The case of Paratyphoid B occurred in a girl aged 5 years who had been on holidays with her parents in Cornwall and Norfolk from 25th July. The case was notified on 12th September and the first symptoms occurred while on holiday on 25th August. No other member of the family was infected.

All cases of infectious diseases recovered.

TUBERCULOSIS

Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925. These regulations empower the Council to prevent persons suffering from tuberculosis to engage in the milk trade. No action was taken during 1952.

There were two cases of respiratory tuberculosis notified during the year, both males. One male patient died during the year from respiratory tuberculosis.

The number of cases in the register at the end of 1952 was 30, of which 23 were suffering from pulmonary tuberculosis.

MONTHLY INCIDENCE OF NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (Other than Tuberculosis) 1952

Disease	Jan.	Feb.	March	April	May	June	July	Aug.	Sep.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Total
Measles	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	63	17	80
Scarlet Fever	...	1	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	1	6
Whooping Cough	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Typhoid	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Paratyphoid 'B'	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1
TOTALS ...	1	1	2	...	...	3	...	...	1	...	63	18	89

AGE INCIDENCE OF NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (Other than Tuberculosis) 1952

Disease	-1	1-2	2-3	3-4	4-5	5-10	10-15	15-20	20-35	35-45	45-65	65 & over	All Ages	Removed to Hospital	Deaths	Age Unknown
Measles ...	...	7	5	11	10	44	...	1	2	...	...	...	80	1	...	...
Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	...	...	4	1	1	...	...	...	...	6	...	...	...
Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...
Typhoid ...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	...
Paratyphoid 'B'	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...
TOTALS ...	8	5	5	11	11	49	1	2	2	...	...	...	89	2	...	...

NEW CASES OF TUBERCULOSIS, 1952

Age Period	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	Male	Female	Male	Female
0—	—	—	—	—
1—	—	—	—	—
5—	—	—	—	—
15—	—	—	—	—
25—	2	—	—	—
35—	—	—	—	—
45—	—	—	—	—
55—	—	—	—	—
65—	—	—	—	—
TOTALS	2	—	—	—

DEATHS FROM TUBERCULOSIS, 1952

Age Period	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	Male	Female	Male	Female
0—	—	—	—	—
1—	—	—	—	—
5—	—	—	—	—
15—	—	—	—	—
25—	—	—	—	—
35—	—	—	—	—
45—	—	—	—	—
55—	1	—	—	—
65—	—	—	—	—
TOTALS	1	—	—	—

